

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 PC-15 USIE-00 IO-14 DODE-00

AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 FDRE-00 DRC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

SS-20 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 IGA-02 /190 W

----- 123796

O P 131835Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3942

INFO USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, TS

SUBJECT: FLOODS IN TUNISIA

ATTENTION: AF/N AID/AFR; AID/PHA/FDRC G/PM

FOR FOREIGN DIASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR

1. THIS AFTERNOON AMBASSADOR LADGHAM, DIRECTOR FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL AFFAIRS, REQUESTED ON URGENT BASIS USG HELICOPTER ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD-STRICKEN VICTIMS AREAS IN SOUTH. SUBSEQUENTLY I TELEPHONED SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAMZAOU, TO DOUBLE-CHECK. HE STRONGLY REAFFIRMED GOT REQUEST, INDICATING THAT MOST OF SOUTHERN TUNISIA PRESENTLY CUT OFF BECAUSE OF HEAVY RAINS AND SERIOUS FLOOD DAMAGE. HE SAID GOT ALSO REQUESTING HELICOPTER ASSISTANCE FROM LIBYA, ALGERIA, ITALY AND FRANCE. HE STRESSED THAT EXTENT OF FLOODING FAFSA, GABES, KAIROUAN  
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AND SFAX AREAS AND LARGE NUMBER OF STRANDED VICTIMS

NECESSITATES MAJOR RESCUE EFFORT BY SEVERAL COUNTRIES.  
I TOLD HIM WE WOULD DO OUR BEST.

2. IN ACCORDANCE, THEREFORE, WITH 2 FAM 060 AND AID MO  
1562.1 THROUGH 1565.1, I HAVE DECLARED TUNISIA AN EMERGENCY  
DIASTER AREA. I HAVE AUTHORIZED USE OF \$25,000 TO COVER  
INITIAL U.S. ASSISTANCE. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WILL ESTIMATE  
ADDITIONAL U.S. ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS.

3. I HAVE ASKED ADMIRAL MURPHY, COMMANDER SIXTH FLEET,  
TO DESPATCH US NAVAL HELICOPTERS TO OPERATE IN SOUSSE-  
KAIROUAN AREA, WHICH IS SECTOR ASSIGNED TO U.S.  
HELICOPTERS. (OTHER NATIONALITY HELICOPTERS WILL OPERATE  
ELSEWHERE.) I HAVE APPOINTED AID DIRECTOR SUMNER GERARD AS  
DIASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR. USLOT CHIEF COL. BUTLER  
WILL SERVE AS MILITARY LIAOSN OFFICER WITH SIXTH FLEET AND  
TUNISIAN MILITARY.

4. GOT HAS ALSO REQUESTED BLANKETS AND TENTS FROM CARE AND  
CATHOLIC RELIEF. CATHOLIC RELIEF REPRESENTATIVE  
HAS CABLED U.S. OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE. IN COUNTRY FOOD  
STOCKS REPORTED ADEQUATE.

5. WE HAVE SINCE LEARNED THAT ALL ROADS TO SOUTH ARE CUT  
AND NUMBER OF BRIDGES ARE OUT. FLOODS HAVE ALREADY CLAIMED 49  
LIVES IN GAFSA AND FIVE IN SOUSSE AREAS.  
SEELYE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISASTER RELIEF, FLOODS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973TUNIS06927  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** TUNIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731226/aaaaasts.tel  
**Line Count:** 88  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AID  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FLOODS IN TUNISIA ATTENTION: AF/N AID/AFR; AID/PHA/FDRC G/PM  
**TAGS:** SWEL, TS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005